

**Virginia Latino Advisory Board**  
 Friday, May 13th, 2022  
 12:00-4:00pm  
 Arlington Economic Development  
 1100 N. Glebe Rd. Arlington, VA 22201



**VIRGINIA**  
**LATINO**  
**ADVISORY**  
**BOARD**

## Meeting Minutes

### Attendance

Aranda	Edgar		Leiva	Manuel		Rimola	Sergio
Berry	Paul		Luna-Jimenez	Max**		Romero	Carmen
Brown	Diana		Medina	Yahusef		Sanchezconcha	Lyons
De Silva	Joshua		Morales	Lourdes		Soto	Rodrigo
Espinoza	Juan		Pacheco	Aida		Watkins	Walewska
Guzmán	C. Alexander		Patterson	Diana		Williams	Cecilia**
Kline-Gabel	Karina		Peña Rockhold	Gloria Maria		Zelaya	Eduardo

*\*\*attended remotely via WebEx*

*Administration's staff present: Suzanne Holland, Board Administrator, Michael Perez, Special Assistant*

### 12:00 p.m. - Committee Breakout Sessions - Committee Chairs

Business, Civic Engagement & Social Justice, Education & Workforce, Health, and Housing

### 1:00 p.m. Welcome, Call Meeting to Order, Meeting Overview - Lyons Sanchezconcha

Greetings to guests, time to go around the room for all present to introduce themselves

### 1:05 p.m. April Meeting Minutes Approval, May Meeting Agenda Adoption - Eduardo Zelaya

December Minutes Approval, Paul Berry motioned, Rodrigo Soto seconded.

Discussion: Walewska Watkins - remove her votes because she was not present

Vote: All in Favor = 15, Opposed = 0

April Minutes Approval, Lyons Sanchezconcha motioned, Sergio Rimola seconded.

Discussion: None

Vote: All in Favor = 15, Opposed = 0

May Agenda Adoption, Paul Berry motioned, Lyons Sanchezconcha seconded.

Discussion: Lyons Sanchezconcha - remove a typo, 1:15 item was repeated

Vote: All in Favor = 15, Opposed = 0

### **1:10 p.m. Public Comment - Eduardo Zelaya**

Dr. Rebecca Vargas-Jackson: works in health care equity issues in northern Virginia and joined to speak to the Health committee today and offering to partner ([peruanos@rcn.com](mailto:peruanos@rcn.com))

Matt deFerranti: Arlington County Board Member attended listening session and joins today to learn and offer collaborations with VLAB in reaching common goals and serving Arlington

Edgar Gonzalez: Legal Services of Northern Virginia listened in remotely ([egonzalez@lsnv.org](mailto:egonzalez@lsnv.org))

Eduardo Gil: Learning & Development Advisor/Consultant listened in remotely

Charlie Zenker: Legal Services of Northern Virginia listened in remotely ([czenker@lsnv.org](mailto:czenker@lsnv.org))

### **1:20 p.m. Administrative Update - Suzanne Holland**

General Updates to Virginia Latino Advisory Board

- Reviewing reimbursement process

- Reminding to check VLAB email and respond promptly

- Updates on Outreach with Facebook and otherwise

- Using [vlab@virginia.governor.gov](mailto:vlab@virginia.governor.gov)

Answer any administrative questions from the board

- Promoting engagement and work in committees

### **1:35 p.m. Committee Reports and Listening Session Recap - Joshua DeSilva**

Business - Lourdes Morales

- Priorities to align with Governor's Agenda

  - Create more jobs, tax cuts, economic development, tourism & hospitality

- Recommendations

  - Revise and increase the Enterprise and Opportunity Zones

  - Revise and edit requirements to be SwaM certified

  - Revise requirements to obtain a VA Contractor's License with DPOR

  - Facilities process to obtain surety bonds

  - Rescind minimum wage increases

  - Partner with state colleges, Small Business Development Centers (SBA), or VA Cooperative Extensions to education and coach small businesses about tourism

- Administrative Pieces

  - Committee has not been able to meet consistently

  - Diana Patterson to become new Committee Chair

- Discussion

  - Hoping to invite Kathy Dolan from VDH to next board meeting (Lyons)

  - Cross-Board SWaM Registration Initiative (Suzanne)

Civic Engagement & Social Justice - Rodrigo Soto

- Committee has not had the opportunity to meet, nothing to report

- Initiatives revolve around legislative priorities

  - Sent an [official VLAB letter](#) to General Assembly Budget Conferees advocating for language access

## Discussion

Lyons recommends vocal advocacy for only items on our report

## Education - Diana Brown

Welcoming new members Yahusef Medina and Paul Berry to committee

### Recommendations

Advocating for support to ELL students in the Commonwealth

Looking at disproportionate graduation rates

Advocating for licensure accessibility for qualified educators who immigrated here and taught in their state

Looking at Dual Language schools and increasing implementation

Identifying a new chair for committee should Diana not be reappointed

## Health Committee - Sergio Rimola

The healthcare committee had two virtual meetings prior to the general board meeting and were able to identify the following priorities:

Healthy Literacy among our communities

Increase Representation of Latinos in the healthcare workforce:

Doctors, Nurses, Healthcare Educators and Mental Health Professionals.

### Recommendations:

Increase the number of **IMGs** residency programs slots for Latino physicians in Virginia.

Develop initiatives for Middle and High School minority students to motivate them to pursue healthcare careers

Start a pilot program like the **GEMS program**: Georgetown Experimental Medical Studies

## Housing Committee - Walewska Watkins

Walewska was appointed Housing Committee Chair

Carmen is up for reappointment in June

Discussed Housing related issues brought to light at last night's listening session in committee break out

Tenant and Workers United concerns regarding living conditions in Northern Virginia's lowest income populations (Serrano Apartments)

### Recommendations

Looking at jurisdictions' approaches available for landlord grants

Housing options for foster children and looking at effects of evictions and housing stability on children

Looking at ways to work with VDOE & McKinney Vento offices

Work with the Department of Housing and Community Development

## Listening Session Recap - Joshua DeSilva

Along with Alex Guzman shared notes on who was present and what was shared

Partnered with VACOLAO

Opened the line for collaboration on various efforts brought up

Continuing the conversation

Sharing the notes with committee chairs

### **2:30 p.m. Guest Speakers - Dr. Dalia Tejada & Dipti Pidikiti-Smith**

Dr. Dalia Tejada Halter - Virginia Department for Medical Assistance Services

Introducing herself and mapping out DMAS initiatives

Goals for increased outreach in VA's Latino population

Answer questions from Board members

Expanding access to dental care and mental health needs

Email: [dalia.tejadahalter@dmass.virginia.gov](mailto:dalia.tejadahalter@dmass.virginia.gov)

Dipti Pidikiti-Smith - Legal Services of Northern Virginia

Introducing herself and summarizing work and trends in the population served

Looking to expand ways to serve housing needs for Latino demographic

Answer questions from Board members

Expanding opportunities to serve minors charged with evictions

Email: [dpidikiti-smith@lsnv.org](mailto:dpidikiti-smith@lsnv.org)

### **3:40 p.m. Board Discussion & New Business - Lyons Sanchezconcha**

Engagement with the community

Going beyond the VLAB email and Facebook

Considering a VLAB Twitter - Rodrigo volunteers

Preparing for the Report

Looking at sending drafts to Lyons from Committee Chairs

Final Draft by August

### **3:50 p.m. Chair's Report - Lyons Sanchezconcha**

Meeting composition and vision for board

Encouraging committee to meet and work together

Need Governance Committee Volunteers - Carmen Interested

Discussing Reappointments

Encouraging all up for reappointment to apply again

8 members end their term this June

Carmen, Aida, Gloria, Manuel, Edgar, Diana B., Max, Lourdes

6 can be reappointed (5 want to be)

Carmen, Edgar, Diana B., Max, Lourdes

Thank you for your service on VLAB

Latino needs are Virginian needs - seguimos perseverando

### **4:00 p.m. Closing Remarks & Announcements - Lyons Sanchezconcha**

Announcements

Reminder, next meeting on June 24th in Charlottesville (Listening Session night before)

Motion to adjourn by Lyons Sanchezconcha & Seconded by Carmen Romero

Motion passes unanimously